

- L: J.J. Stroh, he was this agent, we called him steamship agent. He is the one that made arrangements to a lot of our people, you know, to go over and recruit from railroad, you know, and beet work, but he kinda got the passport for them and got them off. Now, my father was in business. We were in business at that time, when before we came, we were in business in Walterkude, see.
- R: Oh. That's where you came from, your family?
- L: Yeah, but we sold out to a man that still has in-laws over here around Eaton and Greeley, and their name was Betthauer. And he came back in 1911 and bought us out. Bought my dad's business and my dad moved to Frank, which was his native town where he was born. Them towns out there, they were not on the map, most of them all were colonies. You know, just villages.
- R: Yeah.
- L: And that's where a lot of these people immigrated. They first came from Germany in 1793. Now, my Dad was born in Frank in 1855. That's a long time.
- R: I see. Yes. And his name was what?
- L: His name was John.
- R: John Lebsack.
- L: And he was the baby in the family, and his oldest brother was J.J. Named him Jacob. J.J. And he at that time, for many years he was the mayor, you know, all over the community. But those boys served in the army and they took a lot of Russian. They were good in the Russian. So they were great to help our people, you know, get their passports. And at the Saratov is still there. Saratov is there.
- R: The city.
- L: That was the headquarters for us, in that Volga region. That was this side of the Volga. See, there's the [inaudible] you know, and also, the eastern. Well, we were from the other side, and Saratov was the town where the Volga went along. See, we didn't have a Volga where we were at. That was a stream. They called it, in German we called it the Medvitz.
- R: Medvitz.

- L: Yeah. It was a stream, I think. It would get way up high in the spring and then it would go down in the summer, and then the spring they'd have boats, you know, where they'd put the people on, you know.
- R: It was big enough to have boats?
- L: Yeah, they'd put all their farm equipment on, we'd pull it across with ropes. I was nine years old, see. I can just, but I heard about them, but I seen it, too. And they'd pull them across and they'd go into the villages, I mean, into their farms, and I'll tell you, see everybody, got so many, I think it was eight or nine or ten, it was a, they called it [inaudible]. And then [inaudible], lot of them didn't have, that's rent, that's lease, [inaudible] means lease. And they'd go and lease land, too. And they'd have enough and they'd go in from their village out into the farming area and they'd farm. And they'd raise their crops and that's where they'd done. Then in the summer, when the water went down, well, then we'd put the bridge back. So they'd drive back and forth on the bridge.
- R: Oh, I see.
- L: And in the spring of the year when the water was high, they called it [inaudible]. See, that's Russian. I still know a little.
- R: Can you spell that for me?
- L: Well, don't ask me. I'm not a very good speller. But you spell all these words the way you pronounce. Like you would see in German, und, or [inaudible], or ich, i-c-h. You'd pronounce everything just the way it sounds, and you'd get close enough to the German pronunciation. And Russian, too. Russian language don't have a lot of silent letters. Neither does the German.
- R: Like sneaky English.
- L: Like we, in English, see. You know. We have three "no's," and, by golly, everyone of them, you know, it's "no" to all of us. N-o and k-n-o-w, and, well, the German, you just pronounce it. [Inaudible], we just, you know, I'm not a very good speller. Esther, my wife, is a pretty good speller. But I [inaudible], but anyway, then we went now in the fall they'd do the same thing. They'd go out there and load bundles up again in their wagons and you know, and haul them back, and we called them, now I'm gonna give you just the real German what they used. See, there's different dialiects. In their villages, but in the one village, it's spoke the same. They all could understand each other, but they had different dialects. Now, they'd come in and they'd call them [inaudible], [inaudible] means you could raise fruit in that area, they done their

harvesting in there, they put these bundles, you know, laying in them and take a horse and put a roller on it and they'd go around and around.

R: Oh, threshing.

L: Yeah, threshing, or they'd go and have their fruit out there, and they'd go maintain these and then they'd come in in the fall and they'd put all this stuff up for the winter, and you know, their homes, and then, they'd take this wheat. See, and then they'd go to the market. Now, I had a nephew, my mother had a nephew, that was her brother's son, he was in [inaudible]. Why, you'd say, you just so have to mention it, because a lot of them names aren't there anymore. And they, he had a big mill, where they'd go and trade their wheat, they'd have so much put in, or you'd go to [inaudible] or you'd go to [inaudible]. See, and there was a few German villages when we left in 1913 in the spring. They were starting to build mills and dams. It was already started, and we also started teaching more Russian. See, the German-Russian people. The German people. They were very silly in that one respect. That's where they had, they learned a lot, they didn't deserve, too. They wasn't cooperating in a lot of ways. They should have been more in that Russian, but they were taught religion. Catechism, you know, and most of them were Lutheran, some were Catholic, on the other side, not in our area. They were all Lutheran. And my brother-in-law was a minister. And he used to write for a paper here in Windsor, [inaudible] press.

R: Oh, yes. [Inaudible]

L: That's his daughter there, that's his daughter.

R: Oh. That writes this letter here from the Soviet Union.

L: Yeah. [Inaudible]. They write very nice letters. They don't mention anything. But anyway, and getting back into this history, then they'd take these into these mills and then they'd thresh it, I mean, you know, they'd trade, you know, for money or for, and then my father had a store. He had a general store. Now what would be called a general store, then, he had, oh, forty some years they'd been in business in the old country, his folks and all.

R: In Frank.

L: No, yeah, but the last, [inaudible], but he was also in [inaudible], where he was a [inaudible]. [Inaudible] means kind of like a manager, a clerk, you know, and also his son from the first wife. My mother and the first wife, they were sisters. He married two sisters. Then they went into [inaudible], then he thought he was gonna start a

business of his own, so he come to Walterkude. And that's where I was born. There's four was born in Walterkude, and then three of them in [inaudible].

R: What year were you born?

L: I was born in 1905. See.

R: Uh-huh. In Walterkude.

L: And oh, when we came to this country, the youngest one was three months old, and the oldest one was seventeen. And I was in the middle, so I either talked too much or not enough.

R: (Laughing) That always happens in the middle.

L: And then when we came, you know, then when they'd bring their things and they'd come into the store, my dad in them days, you see, they had tailors, they had shoemakers, and most of his people, most of them, there were some, but they had land, but like my dad, he had like land, but we gave, you know, we leased it out to the farmers. We didn't farm ourselves. But we'd be out there, but we leased it. And boy, like John was the head of a, he was a manager of a big wholesale house in [inaudible]. And his wife was a teacher, and my brother-in-law was a minister and a schoolmaster, you know, Wirtz. He was a brilliant man.

R: W-i-r-t-z?

L: Yeah, that's right. And then the, when we left then, you see, my dad just stopped. He said, "It's wartime," see, it was 1913. '14 it broke out. But my dad spent eight years in the army, too. Four years as a soldier and four years as an officer.

R: I see.

L: See, in his early days. He didn't get married till he was twenty-eight or nine years old, see. Twenty-eight, I think.

R: Now this would have been long before the Russian War.

L: Oh, long before I was born.

R: Okay, all right.

L: See, that's with the first wife. Then when the second, then my mother was twenty years younger than my father. See. Then when he met, then he says, "Okay. We don't know. I'm gonna go kind of like a tour," and he says, "There's a lot of things here that I am not," you know, "too happy with," still, they were his own people, that he gave a lot of credit and everything else. They robbed him. [Inaudible] see, Russian-Germans. There was these there, too, they weren't all. They had horse thieves just about as it was here.

- R: As well as all people, I suppose.
- L: Okay. Then we came in here, and he said, "Here's the land."
- R: You mean here in this country?
- L: No, out there. The son and the daughter and their children. Each one had, one had two and one had, yeah, one had three and one had two. But our age. We were kinda, come along about the same time the grandchildren came. See, my father had a wife twenty years younger.
- R: Indeed.
- L: And then he gave everything and he said, "If we don't make it and we don't like it, we'll come back." But he says, "I doubt it." So we started in planning to come to America, "Well, what are we gonna do?" So the brother was in the business, what merchandise and all that, and we opened up the last store my Dad has in the house where he was born, the old Lebsack home, one of the first homes in Frank.
- R: In Frank.
- L: In Frank. That's where he was born.
- R: A store in a house.
- L: We bought the, we leased that from a man at that time was in America, and his name was Hock, but the Walkers bought it from the Lebsacks, they died out, then Hock, and this Hock was an uncle to my mother's nephew, see, and her sister married that Hock, too, you know, in the old country.
- R: H-o-c-h?
- L: Yeah. H-o-o-c-k, we called them.
- R: Oh. H-o-o-c-k.
- L: Hooch. Here is it right here. No, where is it, I showed you that. What did I do with it? Yeah.
- R: Oh, yes.
- L: H-o-c-k.
- R: H-o-c-k.
- L: That was the nephew. He's in this country, oh, he's died [inaudible], but he's been here, you know. So they and we left and we went from, to this nephew's town, which was, I think, at that time, I don't know, whether it was [inaudible] or whether it was [inaudible], but it was one of those towns, and he had a big mill there. This nephew of my mother. His name was Fahrenbruck, my mother's maiden name was Fahrenbruck.

- R: Would you say that again, please?
- L: Fahrenbruck.
- R: F-a-h-r-e-n-b-r-u-c-k?
- L: I'm gonna have to get it to spell it.
- R: Oh, that's all right.
- L: You just spell it and we can correct it when she gets here to spell it. Fahrenbruck. Well, he was, his mother was a Fahrenbruck, too.
- R: You know, there's a Dr. Fahrenbruck in Fort Collins.
- L: Yes, that's the family, that's a fact.
- R: I see.
- L: They're distant off, but that's Fahrenbruck. Just put it down. Okay. And when Esther will be out, and she's...
- R: That's all right.
- L: Then, well, then, when we got there, why, he also had a connection with the railroad. They weren't all peasants or poor, you know.
- R: It certainly doesn't sound that way.
- L: Well, some of our people were well-educated. That's what made success here, too. You can just pick them out, you know. The Fahrenbrucks and the Amens and the Lebsacks, you know, and they're all, they were good here, too. They didn't make a difference, or Germany, wherever they were at. Anyway, then, oh, I shouldn't have said that.
- R: I could take it out if you like.
- L: Well, you know, they weren't all, anyway, then we went to, from there on his train we had, and we had I don't know how many miles. Then from there we went to Libau, but Jim told me or wrote me a letter that's (Sartzna?) now, that is not Libau no more.
- R: Okay, it's on the Baltic coast. Yes.
- L: See, that's, I don't know, it's not on there, I just picked this up today. Here's where these nephews are. Here's where I'm talking about. Saratov. Now we went, see, this is where our area was. Where the Volga comes down through, and this is the area where, and the Volga's on this side here. See it? We were in here, see, and then Moscow, my dad used to go to Moscow a lot. See.
- R: He went to Moscow. On business trips.
- L: Oh, Dad, that was my dad's country. Dad knew that country. Germany, too. But he was in the Turkish, the Japanese war and the Turkish war, and I was born the night

the Japanese War was declared. 1904. That's when the Japanese was declared. And then there was the Swedish war at one time, the Turkish war, Dad knows all those wars.

R: Right.

L: He himself didn't have to go, but his training, but he was big enough, you know, just like to have, he was just...

R: He was an officer by then.

L: He was an officer in the Turkish war but then even the other wars, you know, see, the Turkish War was a very short war, and the Japanese only was six weeks or so, too, you know, see. But the Swedish war, you know, that was a small, you know, disagreement war, where Germany went to Helsinki, you know. Yeah, they're still, it could be Russia at that time.

R: That's right. Yeah.

L: And then from there we went to Libau.

R: Okay. It is on the map here. They changed the name. What is it, Lipatkya?

L: Yeah, there it is. See, that's right. No, that's not the population.

R: Yeah, that used to be Libau. It was a German city at that time.

L: And it was right on the border. Then we stayed there until a while, and then we went from there, we sailed on a Russian ship to Halifax, no, Liverpool. I was thinking Halifax, Canada. But we'll get to that. We were in Liverpool. Then from Liverpool we stayed there quite a while again, and seen everything, and then we thought, "Well, we'll get on an English ship." Most all these Dutchmens went from Hamburg, you know, through New York, or so, but we didn't take that route. We went to, it was more or less the cheapest and still a lot of country to see. And then from there we went to Nova Scotia.

R: Uh-huh. Was this on an English ship?

L: Yeah, it was all English. One end of it was a freighter and the other end was passenger. Great big one. We always judged ships in them days by the chimneys. If you had one chimney it was small, and if it had two it was a little bigger one, and three was the biggest. You know, three boilers.

R: How many did yours have?

L: Three. A big one. And then from there we went to Halifax.

R: Do you remember the name of the ship at all?

- L: Yes, and I'll tell you, I know, but I saw my citizen, [inaudible], I forgot, but that ship wouldn't be in existence, from '65 [inaudible]. Anyway, it was an English ship, I know. Then we went from there to Halifax and there we rode the train all the time, through Canada.
- R: Across Canada.
- L: To Baltimore. I have an argument with some that's left. See, my oldest sister's dead, my oldest brother is dead, and the one next to me, he don't seem to, I don't know, he was sick all the time, and the only thing I, I'm the only one to, my parents' information, that remembers a lot of these. The others were too young. Them other three. And I say we landed at Baltimore, you know, from Canada to Baltimore. I know there, I've been there. I know that. When some of them say we went to New York, I say, "What the hell would they want to do in New York?" We were too close, we were come over from Canada. Now if it had been a route through a boat or so, but we came by train and I think we landed in Baltimore and we went from Baltimore to Chicago and then I still remember, that was in 1913, and they was building the Union Depot in 1913, because we still had a lot of wooden platforms kind of where you'd lay down or set and we waited until we got a train on the Chicago Northwestern. And we went to Lincoln, and in Lincoln they met us and there's where we stayed till 1916. Then we came to Loveland. And by that time some were married, and I went back in 1922 and railroaded and served an apprenticeship.
- R: In Nebraska?
- L: In McCook. Then I come back again and I come back and married Esther in 1927, and then we had one boy born, and in 1932 I came back and bought this corner and started a business.
- R: Oh. Right here.
- L: I was here forty years. But I lived here forty-five now. Then my folks up on the other corner, I still own the home and I remodeled it all I have to save [inaudible], I remodeled it all that's still the home we grew up in in Colorado.
- R: Is that right?
- L: Up on the corner. I remodeled it all. That's one of the oldest homes in Loveland.
- R: I'm gonna go up and take a look at it.
- L: Yeah, well, it's all remodeled, you know. Well, I'll show you before you leave. And then from then on, you see, we, well, school and Americanized and became citizens, all of them are naturalized, you know, and my father died over there in that corner and

my mother died there. And they're all buried here. And I know none of my father's side of the house as brothers or sisters, but I knew a brother, he had only one sister and she died in Hastings. They were came into this country in 1878, or 1880 something. Their name was Walter, and she married a Walters. I met the brother-in-law. I was the only one. But I never met any of my folks. But on my mother's side, her brother, too, they were in businesses, they were in commercial business in cattle, in sheep, and then, like you said, they were in mills and they were Fahrenbrucks, and they had, their nickname was [inaudible], a lot of people had nicknames in Russia. Now, just like Lebsacks. We had [inaudible], and we had [inaudible], but my people all were Lebsacks. There never was a change in that. But this Dr. Lebsack that worked with the Bureau of Standards oh, for a long time, he's in Denver now, Jake.

R: Yes, I know him.

L: But his father had a nickname, too, see. His grandparents were more in kind of the veterinary, you know, and they had a nickname. You know.

R: Are you related?

L: Well, they're all branches off my father, but look at how many branches. See, here's the trunk of the tree. All right, here's a branch, here's a branch, and if you start a tree at six months old. Pretty soon it's sixty years old. Here's a branch, and how many of them little branches go. Well, they could be the third generation, fourth generation, fifth generation, but as far as I know, there's only two more left of my people. And that's Weitzel's mother, she's ninety-some, and her sister in Denver, she's ninety-some. That's all. Then all the rest, the nephews and the nieces, all were born. So it's now, it's a new generation. Like us kids. I only have one son, see. This one talks about eight children. He's the one that just died yesterday, Jake. And then my sister was a Lebsack, too. So you see, these branches are all branched out, and they're the older people are not here. I had a call the other day from, they wanted to know about my, you know, maybe you've seen my picture.

R: In the newsletter? Yes. You and your wife. Fiftieth anniversary?

L: Okay. Well, that's about, we just had our anniversary, fiftieth. But she called from Idaho, and wanted to know whether I could help her to locate, and her, she claimed her folks, her mother married a Grosskupf. But I kinda remember them Grosskupf. See. But there's one in Denver, and that's the same way in Fort Morgan, but I told her to get in touch with this Jake. He's pretty good, he's studies that stuff.

R: I see. Genealogy.

- L: Yeah, genealogy, that's over at Salt Lake, or Mrs. Walker, you know, Virginia, you know, in Denver?
- R: No, I don't know her.
- L: Well, you'll want to get in touch with her. Or write to this Jake Lebsack...
- R: Gerta Walker?
- L: Yeah, Gerta, I think. Walker. She's been, she's pretty good on this. But you'll see her name in here.
- R: Yes, I know who you mean.
- L: [Inaudible]. Anyway, or this J.J. Josie Stroh, we always, his father was J.J. and the boy's still in the insurance business there. Whether they, and Adolph Lebsack, but he's dead. That was another cousin, second or first cousin of my dad, his parents, you know. But Adolph was a quiet, a worker with this Stroh in trying to help our people do, just like this Amen here, this Mr. Amen, Ruth's father. They were some of the first ones. And they were brother-in-laws, too.
- R: Stroh and Amen.
- L: No, mine, the Lebsacks. You see, and also, they were also the aunts and them with my wife. Her mother was an Amen, and her mother's brother married Ruth's aunt. And Adolph Lebsack married Ruth's aunt. It was a brother to J.J. Amen. They came here a long time ago. They were the Amens and they originally came out here and they were some of the first people to develop this Great Western from. They lived in tents. You know. And I just heard the other day where Harry or Katherine's husband's father, they owned that land, you know, where Fifth Street was, where that park is, that school, that high school. They sold that to, and then Harry's brother, which was his uncle, that was Con Stroh, or Uhrich, he had a farm, that was the first place when they came out from Trenton. They moved, there was a park there, they had, that was their land. And then some of these the boys are not living, but there's a lot of their ancestors, I mean their offsprings, are still living. See, John Uhrich, Charlie Uhrich, George Uhrich, and they have a sister [inaudible], Mrs. Webber. But they were all born in this country, they were, you know. And they were some of the first ones, in 1900 when they built the factory, and they kind of, now, their children, I'll have to say this for them. I really, I don't let anybody criticize our ancestors, because we got something to show for it, you know. Now, they, we have doctors in that family now, and all of them, you know, and there was lawyers and there was teachers and business people, and farmed with some of the best. And it was like I say,

they built some of the first, well, they really did build some of the first beet shanties for the people, so they had a place to live. My people, they from a lot of back history you know, and some of our people, I say mine, some or me didn't, but they lived in tents. And put mud around the outside or dirt.

R: Right here in Loveland.

L: Yeah, the winter through until they had someplace to move. See. But when the Germans come in, the German-Russians, it wasn't long, you see, they started renting this land. See. And they bought them. I know one case where they bought the land, and he's superintendent of schools, he's still living, Mr. Truscott. They bought the land from him, and then in a year or two they thought they couldn't make it, it was so infested with weeds and everything, and they're still on the, my nephew's still on that place, living today. And they, in three years, they went to work and bought it back again. They thought they couldn't make it, so they bought it back again. They had to pay double for it. See, but they finally got land all over the farms, and their name is the Zeilers and the Uhrichs and the Lebsacks. You know. They were great, oh, some of the early, you know, landowners. And pretty soon they came out, you get those Germans, you know, to work for you, they'll soon have your farm. And in a lot of cases that was true. They didn't stay there like we have a lot of immigrants today. You know, "You owe me a living." They scratched every nickle and every dime. And they were taught to economize. They were taught to save, see. And still, they never missed their church. That's why so many of them didn't read or write very good, you know, especially writing. And I know when I was in business, you know, we used to have to make, of course, I remember one deal when they used to say [inaudible] on the first line. You know, they learned the hard way, but they didn't show it that they were dumb. They were practical experienced. The type of people we need today. We need people today that can produce in their own thinking instead of being bossed and want high wages for it and can't produce.

R: Yeah, yeah, you've got a good point there.

L: Sometimes I wish I was at one end of the teaching. But the thing is, you know, they were people and really today, now, you read that letter, [inaudible] look and see how many I get, I'll show you a picture.

R: Oh, a lot, yes.

L: And really today, in Russia, did you read that article in your worksheet in your book where they went to Moscow trying to get some help and you know and they kinda,

you know, strike like we do here, walked and got them out of there. Really today, I think if I could go over to Russia right today, and prove to them that those people were not sympathetic with the Germans. They were progressive people. They what we call the Indian method.

R: Indian method.

L: Indian method. Progress. They wanted where they had opportunities. Russia didn't give them the type of opportunity they wanted. They said fifty-year tax-free, and they broke that. See. No taxes fiftieth, they broke that. Well, and they said it in the villages, see, but they were very productive. But the ones that were educated, now they say my own mother's nephew, he became, what they call, marched into East Germans and got rid of his wives and married Russians, so they aren't all, they weren't all sympathetic in their own lingo. But they were so dedicated to their Lord and their church, they didn't want to give up their authority. That was their stubbornness in them. That's why they never wanted relief. I never forget my father one time he called me and says, "Gustaf Gustaf, come here, come here." And I was up on the corner. And I went over there and says, "What the heck's the matter, Dad? What's the matter?" That was in about '35 or '6, and do you know what he told me? He says, "There's a man wants to give me something." I says, "What do they want to give you," that's when they [inaudible], you know, during the Depression. They wanted to give him some oranges, he was old and German, they thought maybe they needed some help. But across the road there was a family that wanted relief and all of that. And he says, "[speaking German]," in German to me. [Inaudible]. [German word] means a poor [kitchen (?)] He says, "In mein alle days," he was about 98, "In all my days, to go on relief, I says, 'all I need is bread and water. Don't ever put me on relief.'" See, that was the training they had. But that's not true today. See, and if the Russians would have just listened to some, the old method, but they, their czars and all, you know, during those early days, they just didn't see the good in a lot of people. They only seen castles, museums, you know, seafronts, instead of going out and saying, "Here's some money. Get these plows." Like I'd have to say this now, they're doing a lot of that. They should have done that a hundred years ago. See, and started showing them people like we did in America. That's why they called, my grandmother, when we left, she called America, "The Land of Paradise." "You're going home, you're going to Paradise."

R: Is that right.

L: See, they wouldn't come over here because they didn't love America. They, freedom of religion and all that. It was like the old prayer, I spoke at a group one time, and I asked them, "What in the world do you young people want? Look at your grandparents, and see, I'm an immigrant," but they don't believe it that I'm an immigrant, see. And I says, "You know what?" You know how Indians came from Siberia, from Russia to Alaska." We know that. I said, "Do you know what? I'm very proud that I am an immigrant from Russia." Look what I have to learn. I said, "I followed my people. The first people in American immigrants...(end of side of tape). If our German people were accepted in Russia like they are here, you know, see, you know, but they had to marry a German. To get them over there, Catherine the Second, you know. Had to marry the [inaudible] people, but see, they were just like, this Kaiser. We had two classes of people in Russia. The rich and poor. And I remember the poor, they were so poor, some of them Russians, you know, they'd take that bark off of the trees, and take that inside, the [inaudible], we called it in Russian, and they'd wrap their legs to keep warm. They didn't teach them people to go in and say here it is, and our Germans were so dedicated to Germans, they thought they should have to teach their children catechism, and in German we said [inaudible]. And the Bible. See, and this [inaudible], and you had to be confirmed before you even took the Lord's Supper. You had to know what it stood for. They didn't bring them up four or five years and take them in the pews. You had to be educated what the Lord's Supper stood for. See, today, they don't even teach the Commandments. They say, "Thou shalt not kill," but heck, they go out on the street and kill for five dollars.

R: Yes, and even less sometimes.

L: Well, this was the attitude. But now we're intermarried, see. Like here. My son is married to an Irish gal. My sister's married.

R: Uh-huh, you were talking about nights and the [inaudible].

L: And then my nephews married Americans and English and all intermarried, so, but they'd say, "What would you do if you'd go over there?" I says, "Well, I'd go over there just because, you know, you was born in a pigpen or something, that's no sign you're a pig." Sure, I was born over there, but where was I educated? Always remember where you're educated. That's the fatherland. I can go back and maybe see a lot of things, I'd maybe like to see it, but I wouldn't want to go over there and be captured by some Bolshevik or something like that and tell me I was wrong. Because

he'd have to prove to me whether he had the kind of freedom that I have over there, and I have people there. You read their letters. They're wonderful people. They're teachers and professors and, you know. But they don't, just because you mention this letter right here, she says, "We'll never see each other, but that's life." See, they're not dumb.

R: No.

L: And there's a lot of them in Russia not dumb. But when [inaudible] says, "Tomorrow morning everybody shuts their lights off," you'd better shut them off. Even in our country. So what do you suppose they do to them when they tell you to shut your lights off? If you didn't you know what would happen. Here they don't, they'd just call you up, see. So there, they grew up like this now, that's their government, and they've had a hell of a time. When you lose eight and nine million people, you know, and the Czar sets there and, you know, and Kaiser, you know, actually they did with the Kaiser, you'd have a man, I don't say that Hitler done wonders for Germany if he only would have kept them together. I told a group the other day, I says, "Why do they want to build a forty or fifty billion dollar airplane? Why don't they build a fifty-billion-dollar peace plan?" That we could spread it all over the world. God, why build something to kill? And then we take the oaths, "I believe in God almighty and so on," well, you know, and still the next day he becomes the commander-in-chief or you know, which is President, you know, or Commander of the army and the next thing you know somebody don't like this or that and the next thing you know they shoot at each other. But they took the oath. See, now this is the thing them old Germans didn't believe in. They didn't believe in divorces. See, but it's changed. See. So this is the kind of a history that our Germans got, and I must say this, I've said it to her, I've sent it to McCook, you know, and also in Kansas and in South Dakota in North Dakota, you know, all them professors in universities I can name. A lot of them here you know, there's Walter Isaac, there's a lot of them here, and you know, I don't have to hear it even in spirit in Canada, you know, we've got them although I know this man here, see, Amen, and now, they're all educated, all people that have done a lot. And if you ever want to set up a history, besides the old Indian that came and he didn't progress, but I'm gonna tell you, you name me another [inaudible], you know, that came into this country. I don't criticize the English, I don't criticize the Irish, I don't criticize the Spain, but they were a lot bigger groups. Countries behind them. But here these few that followed with them. Our first

constitutional, I mean, our first landing when the Pilgrims met, you know that story, where they all set, they said, "Well, what language are we going to use?" See, there were Germans. See, at that time Austria and Czechoslovakia and Germany, Switzerland and them, was one, and see, that was a big country. But Germany declared many wars, and it's their own darn fault, and Germany just was freezing to the ground without expansion. They thought, "We have to push them out," instead of going by love and faith and do something, they had the idea they had to push them out. So war, war, war, okay, want to be [inaudible] language. You know the reason we speak English in this country? The women lost.

R: The women lost?

L: I mean, the men lost. The men, the women wanted English.

R: I see.

L: Because they were, the Germans were, even then they had a little reputation, even way back two hundred years ago or over, see. When they thought, "Well, here they are. They're just not gonna go along with war." They had the reputation of war.

R: Yeah.

L: See? You know. And Sweden was a country that everybody respected many, many years. A neutral country, they're wonderful people. Well, he made us Swedes. The Germans are Swedes. You want in their farms and even in Nebraska, the whole region, I've been all over here. Look at them beautiful farms and how them Swedish were. They even had that same idea, that Lutheran background. And I'm a Methodist for 45 years.

R: Your wife, by any chance?

L: She is, too. See. But I was, but she was born, she was baptized Congregational. She was born in this, see.

R: I see. Well, then, you decided to become Methodist.

L: Well, I became Methodist when we left Nebraska. I was an Evangelical in Loveland and Lutheran in Lincoln. Then when I come back, why, we went to Methodist. But it was a lot, let me tell you, there again, we used a lot of their language. Even in your old churches. Even in the old churches, the German attitude was, "We've got to speak to our God in our tongue."

R: Uh-huh. In our own tongue.

L: See, they stood pat. Not that they didn't love America. Everybody wanted to, but many of them didn't learn to speak it. They were so dedicated and they wanted their

prayer meeting and their church, and they just dedicated themselves. I'm talking about the old-timers, not this generation, last 25 or fifty years. I'm speaking back, 75 or 80 years ago. They stayed until in the late twenties. They said, "Oh, these young people, they can't speak German. They're going to school, and you want them to go to school. What are we gonna do?" And you know what a lot of them brothers yet, you know, I know some of them, they're dead now, God bless them, I hope they have their language up there. And they just said, "We must," you know, "Keep our mother's tongue." And they kept the German. They had plenty of English in the school, but when we don't have religion in school, you don't know what they're teaching.

R: That's right.

L: You know. If you didn't have some basic belief up there at CU, and I've God bless in my wife and we even have our name in the student hall at CU in Boulder, you know, in the wall.

R: Oh, do you?

L: See, we have contributed, we built that, and our son graduated from there. I was always great for education. See, I educated myself, but on the other hand again, you know, I'm for education. But I'd like to put one thing, if you haven't got a background for, you know, the type of person that you should be to teach our children, you should first go to school and could learn that principle. You must be dedicated to love people and get along with them. You know, see.

R: That's right. Makes sense.

L: My daughter and my granddaughter was interviewed and [inaudible] yesterday told me, he says, "Dad", he says, "You know Karen, she's a scholarship student." She's a brilliant girl, but she's, you know, she thought they was gonna ask her all these different questions about, you know, how she should teach and about the different kind and what classes and math and English or economics or anything, you know. She says, and she just worked hard, she thought sure they'd--you know what they asked her?

R: What did they ask her?

L: How do I tell you. First was, "Are you dedicated to be a teacher? Do you want to be a teacher?" I'm interviewing you now.

R: Yes, I...

L: Okay. "Do you believe in strikes. Now, give me an idea why you don't believe in strikes or do you believe in strikes? Do you teach for money? Are you dedicated to

be..." you know. "Do you believe in letting the classroom walk out and letting the little children set there and walk up and down the street because they're not gonna give you the right amount of money you want?" Now those are the kind of questions. They're just waking up. And I noticed the paper just yesterday. Did you see that one where the Colorado Educational Board, you know, why I read, they say they want to make it stiffer. For these high-school graduates. When they come into the colleges so they know what they're talking about. So many of them don't even know.

R: Oh, that's only too true.

L: See, my wife's nephew, he's gonna enter medical school, and he passed by [inaudible] John McGrath in Greeley, see, and I remember my boy, when we went down and registered pre-med. See, that was during the war. And boy, they were tough. But today, you know, if you've got the money, I'm not saying this, and I don't want you to tell that to the teachers.

R: No, no, but standards have slipped.

L: But it's true. And this is where the German old people, they didn't say, "You have to have a degree." They said, "Learn a trade. Do something for yourself." My dad used to say, "You're in America. Forget the Russian and the German. You're an American. You want to teach America. Your children are gonna be born in America." See. Learn it, progress, "I can't help you. Here, go, just as long as you help me have bread and water on the table. I can't help you. You'll have to do it yourself. But if you do it yourself, then you'll remember it. But if I paid for it, you'll think, 'Easy come.'" And you see, those are the attitudes.

R: Yes. Well, that's a very important attitude.

L: I'll let you ask some questions.

R: No, I'm learning a lot. Just listening to you here.

L: Well, I do think, even an officer, I could name all of these, the whole lot of them. There's Ruth Amen, her father had been a very wealthy man, he was a very conservative man, I remember when he had his little grocery store. My boy, my nephew, my dad and they had their store here and they had there and they were very competitive, and right in the middle here was a Strauss and he had a store. Right over here was a Bauer and he had a store, and here was my Adolph Lebsack, he had a dry goods, you know, a general store.

R: What town was this?

L: Lincoln.

R: In Lincoln. I see.

L: See. And Amen was a good businessman. Ruth's father. He was good businessman, and his sister married Adolph Lebsack, too, and she was good. He used to open up his upstairs in this store and teach our people the language, and they helped them become citizens. That was Mr. Amen's, Mr. Amen here, his sister. They were, you know, and Adolph Lebsack. He had a lot of criticism, sure, because, you know, like if you give a lot, you lose a lot. He was one of them fellows, he either gave it away and then he, but Amen was a man that knew how to invest. Like Gus Lebsack, he knew how to invest, and he was always looking ahead, he wanted to invest, see, that's where my idea there. And so, you see, now them old people are dead. These young people, now Ruth had college, she went to the University of Nebraska, all their brothers, her brother, one is a banker, and one if there, a nephew is there in Denver, and the Boettcher, the clearinghouse, you know, stocks and bonds, they're all well, they're all, and her sister Mrs. Heinz, you know her.

R: Yes, I know her.

L: All right, now Mrs. Heinz, she had the university, she also has a master's degree in organization, you know, public relations like, you know. She's pretty smart, and her brother, her husband, I know him, too. [Inaudible] Heinz. His father was a railroad man. He was a doctor, you know. And then Jump Braun, you've heard, years ago about the great quarterback, you know.

R: Which Braun is this?

L: Well, they called him [inaudible], he's dead now. When the first time they ever beat Notre Dame, that's years ago, football. See, Nebraska's great football.

R: CU or Nebraska?

L: Yeah, Nebraska. Nebraska's a great football team.

R: Oh, indeed. I know that.

L: Even when I was a kid, see, I was nine years old. I started school in the first grade, but I was in the fourth the first year. See, I had two years, yeah, and it wasn't long for me to, you know, I went, and it didn't take us too long, because we knew the Russian. It didn't take long to read, to learn in America, and then we had all these relatives, you know, that were like the Amens and the Lebsacks, and they were my, they were either in real estate or in business or, and their children, you know, were going to school. It didn't take us long, I mean, we could, maybe we'd learn the cuss words first, but that was all right, because that's the American system.

- R: (Laughing) Okay. I'll have to remember that.
- L: We didn't learn the catechism first. We learned the, you know.
- R: I see. So German, the catechism, and American, the cuss words.
- L: We had, you know, everybody, you know how kids will do. If you want to get somebody mad, he'll say, "Kenneth, go call him a son of a bitch. You know, that means love." So you go and say, "You son of a bitch," and that fellow would get mad at you, well, they'd go back and just laugh, you know, and think they were pulling a great trick on you. See. Shut this off here. I'm gonna tell you a story.
- R: Okay. (Gap in tape)
- L: Well, that, what has he got now? And exactly what did they give him now? He's got some other job now. He was a Congressman. But his mother was a Walker.
- R: Oh, I see. And from Loveland here?
- L: Yeah, and his, you know, his grandmother. And his father was Brotzman, the [inaudible]. They were incumbents in his grandparents. And then his grandmother was a Walker, and these Walkers are all related to these, Dave Miller here, the lawyer, and these Walkers, these Uhrichs, and Dave, you know, Willie Walker that's in the bond right up in Collins, you know, Willie, they call him, he's in there. Well, his back here, see, they were all Walkers. And my brother, my second next to me, you know, yeah, next to me brother, he married one of those Walkers. They were there, his wife, but he died at a pretty young age. He had a store, too, over in Greeley. Ted. Eddie had a store in Reno. See.
- R: And these are all Walkers.
- L: Yeah. No, these are my, but one of them married a Walker. And this Brotzman, they were cousins. See they left Culbertson and then went up to Reno.
- R: Nevada?
- L: No, but Eddie went to Reno, but what's her name, that Sterling, Reno, Merino.
- R: Merino.
- L: Yeah, that's John. That's a big feeder up there. There's quite a few Lebsacks up there. Big feeders. Well, Don...
- R: Cattle feeders.
- L: Uh-huh. And then Brotzman, you know, he got a scholarship and he became a lawyer, you know, and he was on the State Legislature and he went to Congress.
- R: He went back to Washington, didn't he?

- L: Yeah, Washington two terms. Well, that's quite a [inaudible], and the father, Brotzman. Okay, and then I'll give you another one. Esther's cousin. His name is Donnie Hoffmann. He's president of the third largest bank in America. Don Hoffman in Denver. That's my, his father and Esther's father were brothers. See.
- R: Now, which bank do you mean?
- L: Central Trust. All of them. And now he's even appointed President of all the banks, branch banks. And he started in the same thing. Went to work for the bank and went and took banking courses and they just kept on working and working, worked himself up and now he's got his degree by night school and banking school, you know. And he's a brilliant man. See, then we have another on her side, too, they were, and she was an Amen who married a Snyder, and he's a professor, his daughter is over in Germany—is it Italy or Germany?—anyway, across, where she's teaching, and he was a professor at, in Washington. You know, Washington State, and his name was Snyder, and his father was a professor in Hedron, Nebraska. And their son, he had another one, my wife's cousin again, his name is Snyder, too, he's the head of all the music department at the University of Colorado. And his mother was an Amen, and the father was a Snyder. Then another one is there on the other side of ours, he's a principal, has been for a long time, in, at Denver, in a high school, and his name is-- he's got two boys who are teachers and one who's a lawyer. What the heck is his name? Price. See, and then I have another that's Amen, and she's a teacher at Denver, too. I forget her. She has no children. And so you can see, all this branch, how they all branched off, but they're now so intermarried, like I said, but these people were definitely, you can't say they were dumb, you know. They were really hustlers. And just like this young Hoffman I talked to the other day, you know. You know him?
- R: No, I don't know that I do.
- L: Well, he teaches at...
- R: You mean Klaus. Oh, yes.
- L: Well, I don't know. There's a Klaus or Hoffman. From Germany.
- R: Yes, Klaus Hoffman. Yeah.
- L: Yeah, that's what I meant. His last name was Hoffman. That was my wife's maiden name, Hoffman, and my mother was Amen. We had a long visit together.
- R: Uh-huh. When he spoke at the meeting the other night?
- L: Well, we spoke here, but we met outside, you know. See, I asked him to come down sometime.

- R: Um-hmm, very good. Let me ask you...
- L: I'm just gonna leave it up to you.
- R: That's okay. When you say, Amen, the family name here, is that the way it was pronounced in German?
- L: A-m-e-n.
- R: Yes.
- L: But let me give you a little some, here, they say ah-men. Our own cousins. Just like I said Lebsacks. Some will say Lebsahck, some will say Lebsack, and some say Leeb sack. Now, these, even my own brothers, they've changed, and I'll tell you another one is Walker. When you speak of Walkers, you may hear Walker, or you may hear Wacker. See, and they're still brothers or relatives.
- R: And some of them spell it W-a-c-...
- L: Well, the older ones, they stayed with the way you pronounced it in German, and the younger people, they used their, like I say, you see, like I said about the Lebsack, see. Our name is Lebsahck. According to, when you say "Lebsahck," that would be old. See. But my problem is some of them say, "Yeah, but you know, our name was spelled Lebsack." Okay it's ah. Well when you pronounce Lebsack, in this country, it's a, so it would be Lebsack. And they say, "No, Lebsahck." So, you say Lebsack.
- R: Why, I see you have a coat of arms on the wall out here of the family.
- L: I'd like to let you read that. My nephew, that's the one that's in Ottawa, he's here now with his dad's funeral, if it's ten o'clock. He's the one that, that, you know, he's, oh, an aeronautical engineer. He's a retired colonel, too, you know, in the Air Force. He's been all, that's [inaudible]. I'll let you...
- R: Well, don't...Okay.
- L: This is [inaudible].
- R: Yes, this comes from Germany.
- L: Well, the history. We have a letter. I've got some letters here, oh, heck, I could show you all kinds of things.
- R: Crest was made about 1600.
- L: Yeah, well, our record is 1660 in a little town that's still in Germany, that's still going strong.
- R: Family colors of red, gold, blue and white. John Lebsack copied this crest from Heinz Lebsack in Germany in 1953. Um-hmm.

- L: Okay, this is that Lebsack that I was just talking to you about. Jake. He wanted to ask me...now here, can you read German?
- R: Yeah.
- L: This is a poem that's written for my dad's 70th birthday. This teacher up in Russia.
- R: Uh-huh. Poem on the 25th of November, 1924. Marie and Alex Worth wrote it.
- L: Here, if you want to read this, maybe this will be a little plainer. This is reprinted. Read it here. This is the way he wrote it out there and sent it. This has been recopied.
- R: Um-hmm. Now, was, is this your sister, Maureen? Okay, so a poem for the seventieth birthday of her father. Of your father. That's very nice.
- L: Can you read it?
- R: Uh-huh.
- L: I have it in American translation. This is a wonderful poem. I've been threatening to send it--I did, oh, say, I did send this stuff and a lot of other stuff, I even gave it to this Flagel in...
- R: Oh, in California?
- L: And by golly, you know he never has sent anything back, and I never have read anything. See.
- R: I was gonna say, I'd be very happy to make a copy of this if you wouldn't mind, but I want to make sure it gets back to you.
- L: Well, you take this one. Don't give me the original, what I gave you there.
- R: Well, you just took the other one back.
- L: No, did I? I want you to, I want you to read some more here. Of our, well, I just had that there.
- R: Um-hmm. Didn't you just take it down?
- L: Oh, here. Let's see, what [inaudible]. This is written by Alexander so on so on so on. Okay, this is all giving the information, this land given to me by Gus Lebsack, brother, and brother-in-law of son-in-law, see, that never has, but you take this one, and I'll get an envelope and put it, so make sure I get them back.
- R: Oh, yes, indeed. I can...
- L: I want them in my way. I really do. I think there's wonderful information, and it's our, like I said, our people, if you want the history, the real back history, there's Peter's father, Katherine Uhrich has a letter, and my sister has an old one, but I don't like going over there. He's dead now, too. But a lot of that stuff is over there, my older sister.

- R: In Berthoud.
- L: Yeah, and that's all this Woldemeier. He had made a tour, this Peter's father, he made a tour, and he even got as far back as 1620, that's still a Lebsack name in the church records and all, and he's got the name and everything, and she made a copy of it and the other night, I was out there. Katherine Uhrich, that's Rachel's sister, Katherine, and she read that to me, and that's wonderful, but she's got it all printed, you know, typed, see, now here, put my name down there. Well, I'll write it here.
- R: Okay. Yes, I'll be, I'll get that right back to you.
- L: Oh, don't, no, there's no hurry. You can make some copies and...
- R: Well, I know people like to retain these things.
- L: Well, these are very interesting. Really, what the meaning of it and all. But can you read this? This is during the Revolution.
- R: Oh. [Inaudible]. Yes.
- L: Yes, they were hungry, I'll tell you that. This here is a professor from Germany that wrote this to me when he spoke here at one of our conventions. Louis Wheitzer.
- R: Uh-huh, from Carlsruhr.
- L: Uh-huh. [Inaudible]. Carlsbad, he wrote, but I don't know, see, this is his address right here. From his Schweitzer.
- R: Okay.
- L: Now, I want you to see that letter that my dad's brother wrote in 1902 to America. Well, here's that, oh yeah, this was one I was tracing my father's, somebody for my sister. Himmel, and he's a minister in Washington.
- R: Now, this poem about hunger, now this comes from the Russian revolutionary times.
- L: That's from my brother-in-law.
- R: Your brother-in-law.
- L: Wrote, that's what they went through, they went through hell out there.
- R: Okay.
- L: Now, you talk about beautiful writing. This is my uncle, this here, he wrote to his, he wrote to his, his son, I think it's 1902, no this is my brother-in-law, see, here's some more, way back then, the early revolution. Let's see, when did this...
- R: To Uncle Edward, uh-huh.
- L: And this was Edward, these are all, but I don't want to get one here [inaudible].
- R: M. Hertz, uh-huh.

L: He wrote to his, is it 1903? Oh, here are a lot of letters here that I, here's a 1951 from Berlin. That's a lot of these letters, that's Peter's dad, and his father, and look here, and here's an Amen, this was written to this Mr. Amen, that's Ruth's father. Wouldn't she laugh if she'd see that?

R: Oh, yes, oh yeah.

L: Here's one dated 1902. He was writing to his son in 1902 from Russia. They had lovely handwriting, them people.

R: 1902, uh-huh, October 21st. Uh-huh.

L: Now, we had a minister up there, his name was, oh, he died here a year or so ago— [inaudible]. He used to come up here and spend a lot of time. He says, “Gus, you should--Golly, I was I had just write a book,” I says, “Yeah...”

(END OF FIRST TAPE)

R: His name was Lebsack again.

L: Yeah, he and Stumpf came to Bremen, to Germany. And they went to school there, and then he was a banker and a newspaperman. This Jakes, he had an uncle over there in the newspaper, too. And Stumpf was a professor. He studied and made a professor. He originally was born in Grim, in Russia, this Stumpf, but he lived there as a young, 17, 18 years old, they left and as prisoner got into Germany, then they married there, and they became Berliner. And this is him. And I gave Stumpf a whole letter all of [inaudible] history, way back in Germany, and they sent me a copy now I've got the copy, but heck, I can't read it. It's blurry, it's so...but the original, he must have it, and he wrote that book.

R: That's right.

L: Cause I don't, what's left of us, they're so Americanized. I want you to, come here and I want to write my name on there. And I'd, like for you to read this.

R: I'd be very much interested in reading it. I've heard of that book, but I've never seen it.

L: Well, it's, it's, oh, I even got a letter the other day from a woman [inaudible], she heard about my history, and I don't want to take on nothieg, I was too young, and only mine, a lot of it is from mouth to mouth. See, just like you maybe know about your, great-grandchildren. I mean, grandparents. But you didn't live with them.

R: No, that's right.

L: So you have to, everything you hear, you have to kind of listen to it.

R: That's true. That's true. Uh-huh. Now, what are you referring to?

- L: Well, the Schweitzer, this is it, here.
- R: There's that one.
- L: That's from that professor in [inaudible], and that there is [inaudible], well, that's all right. I put them all in here. I got a lot of letters here. I don't know whether you want to, let's see what some of these might be interested. Berlin [inaudible] in '51. [Inaudible], that's Nettie and [inaudible], and that's their children, [inaudible]. [Inaudible sentence—speaking German?]. [Inaudible sentence—speaking German?]. See, they speak a little different than high German, see. [Inaudible], I just think this would interest you. [Inaudible], you know, they were farmers, and, no, [inaudible], see, he's just as old as I am now. When he wrote this. [Inaudible sentence]. [Inaudible], you know, he died with a heart attack, so did his wife. [Inaudible sentence]. [Inaudible sentence]. See, they were real religious. [Inaudible sentence]. Reuben, Robert, that's the children, see. If you want to read, you can read a lot. Let's see what this is. I'm just going back. 1960. This isn't too far back, there's another one a little far. My sister has a lot of them over there. I haven't got the nerve to go over there and, wait a minute, here's another one.
- R: This, I think, is maybe the same handwriting as this.
- L: Yeah, well, this is [inaudible], well, that's German though, see. 1923.
- R: This one's 1902.
- L: Well that's Jake, that's my uncle. This is, too, but I know who's writing this. This letter, [inaudible] some of them, but oh, boy. Yeah, this is common. This is. I had the original letters that were sent to me.
- R: This was Jake, you say, your uncle.
- L: Yeah, that was my uncle, I mean, my dad's brother, about 1902. Then his son was one of the, they came, they didn't want to serve in the army, see, and when they came in this country, kind of worked themselves over about when they was 18 years old, oh, I'd say 1884, '85, and along in there, see. And, but he's talking about mortgage and things like that. They had their problems, too, you know. And...
- R: Surely, well, that's part of life.
- L: And, but, this here's a nephew of my mother's, see, he'd rather do his son, you know, and this is where he got married and this is where he died, and this is his 50th anniversary and this is when he got married. He came over, too, as a boy, about 1887, '88, didn't want to serve, you know, and they come over and hire out to some steamship or something like that, you know, and work themselves into this country.

Then when they'd get there, why, then, the brother would come and maybe the father, and they just kept putting them in. First thing they'd have to get some of them in, and some of them couldn't. They were very strict in them days, too, with glaucoma. Now, we didn't have any of that problem.

R: With the eyes.

L: But here's my wife. Come on in. Do you want to play that?

EL: Play what? Oh, I'm Esther Lebsack. And you're Mr.?

R: I'm Kenneth Rock.

EL: Oh, yes.

L: Do you want to play that one back? I want to be sure that she'd okay it.

EL: I'm gonna go over to that other chair. I get awfully tired. No, no, no.

L: Listen. Sit in the rocking chair.

EL: Yeah, I want to listen, but I've got to change chairs.

R: You said something about you wanted to add?

L: Oh, yeah. When the Russians, when I, when we left...

R: Could I bring a chair up for you?

L: When we left, Russian was in more demand and they had two types of schools. Now, I'm just speaking as I remember it. One was, we called it in Frank, and that was the last time we lived there, we called it the [inaudible]. That was sponsored by the community, by the city, just like we say "county." And then there were private schools, we called them [inaudible]. And they were, you paid. And they taught the Russian and the German. Always had it, but we had both there. And it was more like our public schools--arithmetic, history, and you know, spelling, and writing and reading, you know, which the [inaudible], they were more or less, you either went to school or you didn't have to. It wasn't compulsory. They tried to make people go, but on the other hand again, they were more or less educated on the religious standpoint, which most of the times a schuhlmaster or so taught.

R: Was it a church school?

L: Yeah, it was a kind of a, well, it was generally connected with the church. And then in [inaudible], they had to pay, and we had a German teacher and we had a Russian teacher, and we also had to take military, just like, you know, they do now, you know. We even had recess so, instead of going out there, you know, and just setting and arguing, we had military. We'd jump and we learned how to shoot a gun and we'd learn how to, you know. It was military.

R: This was in Frank?

L: Yeah, and in Walterkude, they had already, too, the school where you took both languages. But I went to school my last, when I was, the two years or so, that was in Frank. And the others went to Walterkude, you know, but my sister and [inaudible], she went and finished even like we'd say, high school, here. Then she went to Balanda, you know, and she took, she was just like home economics, we call it here, see. But the people, towards the last, they were pretty strict. When the Czar had his birthday or any big day, you know, a victory of some kind, boy, you had to close up and you had parades and you marched. And there wasn't such a thing as saying, you know, and I can still sing, know some of the words of our patriotic songs over there, you know. But you wouldn't dare to sing that today, because they throw all of that out, you know, Russia has reorganized.

R: That's right.

L: What they call, we call it in here, Communist, but really what it is is the foundation of socialism, you know. And when that was started over there, it really wasn't a Russian that started it, either. It was Marx, you know, that started it. In Germany, and you know, Marx. Okay, so whenever you have problems in the education field, that's where it starts.

R: Okay, then you're saying here that in Frank there were parades for the Czar's birthday?

L: Oh, definitely. Oh, my, my, my, they were in a war then, you see, we're talking about World War I. We even had, oh, a lot of military training and the boys would have to go and serve in the military, and then come home, and why, heck, that was a big thing, and the same with their marriages and everything. When they had a marriage, you know, you had pretty near like a parade, had two or three days of marriage and good times, and then when funerals, the same way. They carried out to the cemetery, you know, and they had somebody carry the cross and the ministers marched and they sang all the way out and then they sang when they were there and then they sang back again and then, you know. Oh, why, that, they were.

R: This was a German.

L: Oh, yes, this was all the German, in German, but as far as the Germans as well as the Russians, you know, you had to obey laws and you, they had, you know. But it was commencing to work more and more towards the Russian method. They was starting to learn more Russian and reading, writing.

- R: I see. And so you were taught some Russian, too, in school, that's right?
- L: Oh, I can speak it.
- R: Okay. And your father certainly knew it.
- L: Oh, he knew it. He knew reading and writing and he knew it, thoroughly. And my brothers and brother-in-laws and all the older ones, oh, they just, why, we spoke Russian when we went to see my brother in Balandin. They didn't, it was all Russian. There were very few Germans there. See, Germans were congregated in villages. They didn't, the few that left and went into, you know, like the cities. Like Saratov, [inaudible], [inaudible], [inaudible], and Grim, see, that's where the schools, the high schools and more or less the higher education, well, they had manufacturers and they had a lot of things. That Libau that I spoke to you said isn't Libau, that was a beautiful city. All, oh, them bridges were all in rocks over the rivers, you know, see, [inaudible], streetcars, but a lot of people never seen their first train till they came to this country.
- R: There was no train in the [inaudible] region.
- L: No. We had no train in the villages. You had to go drive quite a few miles, and how many people ever left their homes?
- R: Well, not many. I mean, your family seems very unusual. In that respect.
- L: Well, not us alone, but others. See.
- R: Um-hmm. Now, when you mention Balanda, was that close by, or was that a ways away?
- L: That was about a, well, we drove in about two hours or three with a horse. You had to go through a timber size of a [vault? wald?]. I've been there lots of times.
- R: A real forest.
- L: Oh, yeah, that was right close to us on the side of the [inaudible], you know, the forest. Oh, hundreds and hundreds of acres.
- R: What kind of trees were they?
- L: Well, if I had to tell you, they were pretty trees. There was pine and there was, you know, there must have been all types, just like anywhere else, but like the Black Forest you read about, you know.
- R: Okay. But it was evergreen trees.
- L: Oh, there was evergreens, and then you went on, now, I had an uncle in the southern part of Russia, [inaudible], and that was like California. Been there, too, you know. He was a tailor. He had a tailor shop and a clothing, made suits there, and that was

year-round like California, see. That was closer down to the Black Sea, you know, where they got a [inaudible], see, Asia. And that was Russia, too, but you see, round of that Russia is so big, you know that, studying history, that a lot of them places, you know, they were not affected by the war, either, you know. You see, the Russians, what we call, Europe, Russia-Europe, along the Scandinavian borders, you know, Moscow, Leningrad, Stalingrad, see, they were all changed. They weren't Leningrad and they weren't Stalingrad in them days. They were all changed. Why those are the older countries, see. The Germany came over through Poland and into Russia, and you see, that's the reason they always said that the Germans could fight the war in Germany, they'll whip them, but if they have to fight a war in Russia, they'll never whip them, because Russia has never lost a war that they fought the war in--they'll freeze to death. That's a very cold country up in there. And it's surely true. Moscow got awful cold. Saratov got awful cold. Where we lived, got awful cold. We drove over the fence in the wintertime. You know, the snow would be so deep, you'd just drive over the fence.

R: Right over the fence.

L: And we'd all, you know, anybody that, they'd have everything, barns where they took the feed and everything, and they kept their barnyard horse and their cattle were in like we say, sheds. Winter sometime would be several weeks, you never could get out. See, and then in the winter we'd have to drive on top of the snow. We'd go to Balanda sometime at three and four feet of snow, but, hell, most of the time you wasn't even on the ground, you were on top of the snow, it'd freeze so hard, it would, your sleigh just went up on top of the, ground. See, and the horse would have bells on their bows, you know, oh, that was fun, see. And but, how it is now, and look at our country and how we're changed, the weather. I haven't been over there for a while.

R: No, no, seventy-five years is a long time.

R: You said that you almost had an accident with the ship at Libau?

L: Well, we were, I was trying to investigate what the heck it was and how deep the ship was, you know, down in the water, you know how they dock along, and I went along, you know, and I was playing there, and you know, here's the dock, and let's say this is the ship, see. Setting here, and I was along and the ship was way up high. I looked down, and I fell, and a fellow was standing right there close, and he grabbed me. I was clear down alongside the ship.

R: Did you fall into the water?

L: Oh, sure I went into the water. They never could have got me out. It was only about that wide, you know, down. But I remember, then I got lost there, too. I was, curious, wanted to see, you know, that's why I was gone all day long, and they finally found me later in the evening, my brother, the oldest one and my dad, they looked for me, and some of the younger ones wouldn't remember that, naturally they wouldn't, and that's where I, wanted to see that streetcar, three-decker, you know. Russia had a lot of beautiful cities, too. They weren't all just, you know. Villages. There were some beautiful cities. Still is. You go to Moscow, Saratov, and Libau, you know, and Petersburg, and that's changed now, too, and [inaudible], you know, [inaudible], oh, they were big cities, you know.

R: Did you ever go to Saratov when you were small?

L: Well, I can remember being there, you know, but I just can't remember. I must have been awful small, so, of course, I had, my dad had, well, they're in this country now too, my dad's niece that's in Denver, her first husband was a Russian, you know. They lived in [inaudible], that's right close to Saratov, that's a pretty good-sized city, and they used to visit over there. But you see, when we were little you know, if we didn't have our own transportation, my dad would hire somebody, one of those kids, you know, you go to visit your relatives, but when it comes to a business, see, there was always kind of a group, see, now the Baum, they were very wealthy people, you know. They're the ones that the government killed and took everything away from.

R: Baum, you say?

L: Baum. Their name was Baum. They were wealthy people, just like we have them in this country, like over here, it's the Pulliams, and Fort Collins, we used to have, you know, some of the old, old-timers, you know, that had a lot of land, and they were imported a lot of our people, common labor, you know. And...

R: You use this term, "our people."

L: Our people are German.

R: Do you use that phrase in German, too?

L: Well, yeah, [inaudible].

R: Uh-huh, okay. I was wondering if that was.

L: Yeah, [inaudible], and that means, you're not talking about the Irish. You're not talking about the English. You're talking about the German-Russians. That's why you say "our people." See, and the reason I say it, like I say, I was a child, you know,

and I acted like a child in them days. Now I'm a grown man, and I try to act like a man, but I don't remember all those childhood ways.

R: Okay, okay. Well, let me ask you, and I don't know, maybe your wife would want to add, too, but could you tell me a little bit how it was like in Loveland in the early days?

L: Well, when we came here in 1916, Esther was here long before I was, Esther. There was about, a little over 4,000 people. And it was a gravel road, my folks put the first gas and water. That house up there, we had the first water inside of anybody I knew or anything east here, you know, city water. And we had cesspools. And we had the outside, we called them, nowadays, they say shed houses, you know, you didn't use the word you should have, but then it was a shed house, see, a shed with the house. And the other one was [inaudible], you know. Well, or like you read about it, the privies, you know, two-holers, some of them even had two and two little ones on each side so the mother and father could set and the two kids on each side.

R: Well, that's part of all of our houses in those days.

L: That's, this park was on the first park. When we came here, all these trees were about eight or nine foot high.

R: This was a park.

L: Yeah. Right when we came here. And I became chairman of the park board here, and we worked on, served on the committee a long time. We had cut thirty-seven trees out of this park that were there when we came here. See, I was on the Park and Recreation, park board here.

R: Of the City of Loveland.

L: Oh, yeah. I can even show you a plaque that I got. And we had Washington School, which is empty here, on Fifth Street, that's where I went to school, then we had high school, where just they were starting to build it, where this old, but it's been remodeled and been built on. Then we had the old Garfield School, and then we had Lincoln School, that's where she went to school.

R: Near Albertson's.

L: You know, near Albertson's store.

R: Yes, down here on 34 and 287.

L: So there is no more old school in use. Only the old high school, and it's a junior now. But that's been remodeled and built on on both ends, and that was built along about that time, wasn't it, about '18 or 19. And...

- R: What about the church right down the street here?
- L: Well, I was gonna say. This church down here was built in about, it moved in here about '21 or '22. But that little church over here was a Lutheran church, it was moved in in 1950. And the Congregational Church, her folks went there and her parents and grandparents, they were charter members of that one on Lincoln. The Congregational.
- R: Are these right here...to the north of us?
- L: That old church that was torn down. Well, when you go out towards Collins, you know, the same place Eighth Street, the church on that side? That's where they grew up.
- EL: My father helped build that church.
- L: Her father and grandparents.
- R: When did your parents come to Loveland? He said you were here earlier than her family was?
- L: Well, her grandparents came in 1900 or before that.
- EL: Yeah, we didn't come here until...
- L: Till about 1908, I think.
- EL: About 1908.
- R: I see.
- L: But her grandparents from both sides, the Huffmans and also the Amens, Mr. Huffman is the one, you know, that owns that land right north, that was her...
- R: Where the hospital is now.
- L: No, north of it. It's sold now. See, her cousin lives there, and he sold it. You know, and then another thing I remember, naturally, it was horses, you know, there was a blacksmith right where the Dinner Bell is, there used to be a blacksmith shop back in there, and they used to have those, those pitch holes, you know. Then right over here I can show you a trough, a trough that's sitting right over here that I had moved over here during when I was on the board, and that was a water trough. People would drive along, you know, and let unhook the reins, you know, of their horse, drinking, and then they'd trot on home again.
- EL: Well, another thing, when, that I remember, is the whole family, they worked in the fields. It wasn't that the wives and the children didn't have to do anything.
- L: You're talking about beet work now.

- EL: Everybody had a job in the fields or milking cows or something. They all grew up like that. Everyone in the family had a chore to do.
- L: We didn't even [inaudible].
- EL: Oh, yeah, out in the fields.
- R: This whole area of Loveland was largely German-Russian? Is that right?
- L: On this end.
- EL: This end of town.
- L: About from the ditch on. But the rest was, we were about the first German family that had a home right here, and the Uhrichs over on the west side. The Germans either were out on the farm, most of the farmed or lived on the farm or else they had this German settlement where the Spanish is now, Mexicans, see. That was all pretty well Germans.
- R: That was pretty close to the factory.
- L: Oh, yes. That's it. Then when the factory come in, they had two jobs: tend the beets and work at the factory, or we had a lot of fruit. That's another thing. This has long been, we had a lot of fruit in Loveland.
- EL: Sure.
- L: There was cherries and raspberries, and apples and strawberries and we even used to have a train come in and pick up the raspberries early in the morning. And some of the old old-timers, again, like the Uhrichs and the, yeah, Uhrichs, and Beckers, and the Krohs, they had big...
- R: I wonder. Kroh Nursery. This must be German-Russian.
- L: Yeah, they had, well Jake is in one of them homes up here at Collins, he's been in it...
- EL: His mother had a big raspberry patch.
- L: And the Beckers with the Loveland Creamery, his parents had a big, it's all houses now, they had a, oh, two-three acres there, and they had a lot of fruit, and then the people that picked, they'd take, like Esther says, their mother would take all the kids and, you know, while Dad was out here stacking hay, they'd be picking raspberries or cherries, and then they'd go out and do the third hay while the father was working someplace. They was always progressive, and when they were in debt, you know, you had to get outside help to finance. Well, maybe the two older ones that could work somewhere else, they worked someplace to bring in money to make these payments. They didn't say the government to pay it.

EL: No, the first trip that we were gonna take to Estes Park, my father had bought a farm, we were in debt, and of course we all had to work in the fields, you know, so Dad said, "Now, it's harvest time," and I think it was shocking grain or whatever it was, he said, "Now, let's work real hard, to get that all done, and the Fourth of July is coming, and then we're gonna go on a picnic. And we're gonna go up to Estes Park." And oh, we just worked so hard and were, just tried to get all that work done. Well, we finally got the work done, but Saturday night come, and of course, you see, these farmers, they have this water, this irrigation water, you know, and it's a very expensive thing to buy the water, so the phone rang and said to Dad, "Well, Mr. Hoffman, I'm finished with the water now, so if you want to take it tomorrow," he says, "you can have it tomorrow." Well, that was the day we were gonna go on our picnic. So Dad turned around and he looked kind of sad, and he said, "Well, children," he said, "I'm awfully sorry," but he said, "you know, we can't go on that picnic." He said, "You know we have to have that water for irrigating our crops or we'll lose our crop." So, we were all sad about that, but we didn't get to go on a picnic, and like Gus says, our people, you know, they were eager to save a crop or this and that, so Dad worked irrigating the field, and we kids had a little fun out on the lawn, you know, played Run, Sheep, Run or something, so that was our Fourth of July holiday.

L: I owned a farm south of town there which is now Cashway from Fort Collins, they're building a yard there. And I sold that, and I had a farm southeast, too. And let me tell you another thing, pardon me for interrupting while I think of it, we also seen the town started progressing. You know, I hate to say this, and I've said this many times, the Chamber of Commerce and at different meetings, and we were a bunch of young fellows that got into this field and we started progressing. We started calling it the Development Club. And we started talking Hewlett-Packard and started buying land, and we'd all donate and go up and down the street, and I was one of them and there was a lot of others, and we'd donate, and just like I said, you know, the University of Colorado, and we even helped when they built the student building and we got our name down there because we bought some stock, you know, and all those things, they was very energetic, you might say. Very anxious to see Loveland grow, and I can name you a lot of names, but if you name one, you might miss one. So I'm gonna tell you all the good ones. And we also then got the factories and the industry in there. Then there came the Big Thompson Project. I'll tell you about that. I was at a meeting, and Dr. Lory was your president. And Dr. Lory was a very good friend of

mine. I knew him because I had him speak one time at a Men's Club. And right about the time he said, "Gus, what do you want me to talk about?" I says, "Talk about education." And he had a young feller up there, you know, two of them that well, one that had the keys, you know how we used to give the keys to an honorary student, you know, and the other fellow was kind of a slow-learning kid, you know, every time the tests come up, he wouldn't do so well. So Dr. Lory, he told this story, at the meeting, he says, "So the professor in engineering in Western Electric back East hired both of them," General Electric, it could be either one. I think it was General Electric. Anyway, he says, "And one, see, they would brag and say, 'Well, Lory, we knew that this one man, he was so good, that he would match, he'd no problem.' But we didn't want to condemn this little fellow here, and what I mean we didn't want to show that he was not up to par, so they okayed them both. And a year or two later, and they started checking into these two boys. And so Lory said, 'Oh, my god, I knew we made a mistake bragging about this boy.' It's what we call a recruiter from, you know. 'I knew we shouldn't have done that.' And Lory said, 'Just a minute. Do not judge people by their honorary grades. You judge them by the education, how he built the education on a solid foundation.' And this boy built what he learned on sound foundations. We went through the plant, and he's a supervisor. The other boy we had to let go. Everytime we wanted to know anything, he had get the book and read it.

R: That's not quite the way to run the business, is it?

L: I never forget, that's how we built Loveland. We started the hospital like that. We started everything in Loveland here, the Big Thompson project...

(END OF SIDE OF TAPE)

R: You'd like to have that.

L: I think I should, you know, the kids, you know. Anyway, we're talking about Loveland, and then, from that time on, Loveland grew, and we got, I served one whole year on the changing the government. I heard them complaining and you know, I'm a great believer, where you don't hear any complaining, you do nothing. But, like Lory said, "The man that makes no mistakes does nothing. But the man that makes too many loses his job."

R: Yes, that's good, yeah.

L: And this is the thing we worked in Loveland. I can name you a lot of them. We had only one bank, and we thought we needed another one, and I was one that helped, you

know, and a bunch of us sold stock and I bought, too, and we built and started the Home State Bank. Then by that time, they were, we built the new bank and the First National Bank, and the, way west, Lake National Bank, they finally joined this United Bank, you got one in...then, here a couple of years ago again, we, the Home State Bank group and there we are we started the Bank of America, you know, I was kinda...

R: In on that, too.

L: Well, you know, I was always interested in progress.

R: Now, were you on the City Council, or...?

L: Well, I never was on the council but I served on a lot of committees. On the airport, you know, why, Loveland, I couldn't take the City Council, I was on that one time, but I had to drop it, for this, but I had to drop it for this reason, we, the store, we had to open evenings, and I couldn't. But I always served on committees. Many of them. I'm on one again.

R: You did all of this in English, didn't you?

L: Oh, yes. Well, I knew something about Loveland. But as far as German, there was John Deines, he was one of our people, he was on the Council, and engineer, an electrical engineer's father, and Herb [inaudible] run for councilman one time, and I run for councilman in the early days, one time. And, but I was asked many a time, and then we had, oh, I don't know, the olden days, it was a city form of government, you know, city form, council form of government, by mayor, you know.

R: Mayor and City Council.

L: And I served one year then we switched over to City Managers, you know, but in the early days, I don't know, you didn't have to worry about locking your doors or opening up. And then we had a couple of business people who were Germans here, the Millers, we knew his father.

R: Didn't they have a store here, too?

L: Yeah, right down on Spruce Street, close to Penney's.

R: Was that somewhere near your store?

L: Yeah, right down the street, and then Schaeffer, he run the Golden Mercantile Company, that was German, and her uncles, both of them, they worked the grocery store here for Loomis. These were all in the olden days. And, but when Loveland took off, you know, like Collins, see, Greeley was always the largest city, you know. And when Loveland took off growing, it wasn't very long, you know, I was talking to

a young feller the other day, he says, "You know, Gus, I sure like Loveland." I says, "Well, don't worry about it. It isn't gonna be very long " I says, "You're just a suburb of Loveland now." I says, "We're growing much, much faster than you are." I says, "You're coming." And we're gonna accept him. I says, "You'll be a suburb soon." He got a kick out of that. But now they tell me Longmont has kind of peaked out ahead. It was, Fort Collins was the top in the nation, you know, per capita, but now Longmont is, I hear.

R: It's growing, too. All of these cities.

L: But in a lot of ways, churches, I think we're one of, we should have a medal, as far as I'm concerned. I think we got more denominations than anyplace in New York, boy, we've got them here. I think every denomination, every religion is in Loveland.

R: Well, let me ask about the German-Russian churches. You mentioned a Congregational church, and the Lutheran church right here.

L: And Evangelical.

R: So there were three.

L: There were three denominations in our days, in the early days. Congregation, and this here, now that's the Reformed, Mormons have that now. On Seventh Street. And this here was one of them, so they was--no, there was four. There were two Lutherans, and Evangelical and Congregational. See. Now, you better ask me questions or I can talk here...

R: All right. Did you go to one of the Lutheran churches?

L: I went to the Evangelical Church. See, and that's over here now, that is, the Mormons use it now. They bought it. On Seventh.

EL: And I grew up in the Congregational.

L: She grew up in the Congregational German.

R: And that, you said, is on Lincoln?

EL: Right across from Safeway there.

L: But we've been forty-some years in the Methodist, now, see.

R: Okay.

L: And Lutheran, there was this one on Sixth Street here, they don't use no more, this big brick one down, up sixth street and go over three blocks. That was a German, that was the first Lutheran church in Loveland. See. And I just don't, I can't tell you, that's before my time, I think it's before hers, but her dad might remember or the Uhrichs out here, I think the first services, weren't they up above the drugstore? I

don't know. You'd have to get older information on that. But I could tell you how to find out--that Mr. Troudt.

R: Mr. Troudt. I'd better try to catch up with him.

EL: Oh, say, he'd be a wonderful man. I was confirmed with his daughter.

L: The girls, he wanted to, but the girls would not consent to it. Well, he's 95 or so.

EL: But he's as alert as they come.

L: He can still remember the dates and so on. And these girls are all teachers and then some of them didn't get married, and they live there in Fort Collins. You know something, there was a little bit of friction after World War I. You know, during World War I. You know, they had a little, we never had that problem, but there was towns where they would say, "You know, they're Germans. German-Russians. They're sympathizers." But I think, but in World War II we didn't have that, see. Well, they were a lot of young people, you know, they intermarried, and they'd say, "Oh, I don't want to talk German," or, you know. But we, I myself, in our family, we never did that. See, we always lived here.

R: You came here in 1916? So that was during the war. You don't remember anything in those years?

L: Well, no, the war broke out in '18.

R: Well, '14.

L: The Europe war, yeah, but they was, you know, they thought, you know, everybody thought, "We'll be into it." Our sister country, you know, which is England, and nobody was gonna let them down, and I knew all the time, my Dad did, too, they couldn't possibly afford not to go in with England, because he felt the same way, you know, if Germany would, could whip England, and Germany would have taken over Europe, you know, they would have, whether that would be the best thing or not, I don't know. If you listen to Kissinger's, actually mine, I think he'd think they would be better because they were smart. And let me tell you, they killed a lot of Jews, but my Dad always said, "Whoever kills the Jews kills himself." That was his attitude. He never believed that you should criticize God's chosen people. They were that religious, see. And the Jews, right here, what would you do right now in our country, if we didn't discriminate the Jews?

R: Can't. Well, let me ask you something, here. You and your father were merchants. Did your father mention Jewish merchants in the old country, or...?

- L: He was manager, and so was my brother, for the Jews in Saratov. They were the owners.
- R: Oh, the Jewish people?
- L: The Russian Jew was just like the American Jew. He had it all. We go right down in Denver during the early days when I first started out, and my folks, or even in Omaha, and all the packing houses, I don't know how Swift and Armour's, but all in them Denver, there's Sigman and Pepper and you know, and Burkhard and all of them were all Jews, the Russian Jews. This man right down here that runs this packing house, Wittenburg, you know, his folks came from Russia.
- R: No, I didn't know that, either. No. But, I mean, this would be a logical business or...
- L: Well, the Jews was in that. The Russian Jew was great for junkyards, too, and things like that. He loved to make life easy. But the German Jew, the German Jew, was more of a diplomat, more in banks and manufacturing and everything else. See, there's where Hitler made his big mistake, you know. Because they had the brains, and when you kill the brains, it takes fifty years to get another brain started.
- R: Yeah, that's right. And in the meantime, those fifty years have to be lived through without brains.
- L: But I don't, I'm just seeing how it is. Nowadays, you know. Germany is torn everywhere anymore, you know, you go anyplace. But it just takes some of our great leaders. You got that on now? Some of our great leaders. In our back history, where'd they come from?
- R: Germany.
- L: Sure. [Inaudible], [inaudible] where did Kissingers come from? Where did Roosevelt? Hollanders.
- R: Dutch.
- L: Dutch was at one time Germany, too. You even just go down, but you want to remember that German, the German language is a very old language. It's originally off of the Yiddish, you know. See. You know, language. So German is a very old language. See, that's why Jews cannot speak German. It's a lot like French and Spanish. I mean, the Mexican and Spanish. See. You know, if you can talk Mexican, you won't speak Spanish.
- R: That's right, that's right, yes.
- L: See, the English language was an offspring way after German, you know, see. But let me tell you another thing, if you want to go in history, and you may read more than I

have, but here, you know, at one time when I was a boy in school, even in the old country, or even in this country, you always want to remember the Kaiser of Germany and the King of England and the Czar of Russia, they were all brother-in-laws, related. And also the Netherlands. See, and also some of the Scandinavians. Heck, they were all, you know, that's why, you know, they say, whenever relation gets into a fight, you want to be careful. They can really cause trouble. And they fought each other all the time. Each of one wanted to be superior, but when it comes right down to it, the Germans were the main leaders in it. There was the King of England, his wife, Germany. There's the wife of Alexander the Second, Germany. See, all right? There it is, they're all three, they were all, you know, and when they couldn't talk German, they talked English, and they couldn't talk English, they'd talk Russian, they couldn't talk Russian, they'd talk German. See.

R: Yes, I see. Yup, that's the way it was.

L: Well, most certainly. See.

R: Well, let's jump to Loveland just for a few minutes here, and then I've got to take off pretty soon. But can you tell me something about your store? And you certainly traded with the other German-Russians.

L: Well, I'll tell you, actually when I came in '32, there was a terrific let-up, you know Depression but thank the good Lord, Esther and I, we were all, I told my son and his wife, we were always very, very progressive. Very thankful You know what I mean by that, progressive. Well, it was no different to us, you know. The Mexican's nickel was just as important to me as the German's. And I didn't do any, very little trading, because my father lost a lot of money and my brother-in-law, and they were chain operators, you know, in the grocery business, one in Greeley and one in [Reno? Merino?]

R: Your father had a store here, though, before...

L: No, my father worked with his nephew, but he had a store here in the old country, but it was credit, too, and he lost a lot of money.

R: Oh, I see.

L: They even robbed him, you know. And we stayed pretty well in the cash, but I don't know, I still know my first gross sale was eleven dollars and some cents. You know, in 1932 in September.

R: One remembers that.

L: And I still have some books or records, but after a while we started in remodeling the store and building on and building on and we built a duplex and then another duplex, and then we remodeled my, call that my mama's house, and then we bought the the farm and I sold it now, and then we bought a cabin up at, and it all came out of the store, but we worked mostly ourselves. We hired some, but not so much. Our son was, just as important to us in grade school as he was in high school, whenever school was out, he was in here. Delivering or working. He didn't, [inaudible] play tennis. See, and Esther would get up in the morning, and we'd, you know, work together, we'd do our housework together and we'd do our cooking together, whoever was able, and she'd mostly be at the cash register and I'd be at the meat counter and stocking and, you know, and I don't know, we just naturally done all right. And then when the war broke out we had to contend again with a lot of things, NRA, and then we contended with white slips and work slips, you know, from the county. I remember the first ones, we didn't have a way, but the county had money, so they could paid us again. It was all in the 30's. I can tell you a lot of things about that, too. And, but, we just took life as it came. We knew we had to make it, and we knew we had to stick in there, and we helped the community. We wasn't really this here being up for business, but it was only fifty cents, but if I gave it to you from my heart, that was from my heart, I didn't try to get business out of it. And we treated the people nice, so Esther and I walk uptown, and there'd be a lot of those kids with their families now, and they still call us and "Gussie, how are you, and how we're doing," and you know. And we used witness a lot for our German-Russian people, too, you know who wanted to become citizens when the pension went in, you know.

R: How did that work?

L: We, they used to come in there, some of them would examine in them days, you know, it was the County Courts. And you had immigration laws, you know. You brought them up here from Denver, you know, those examiners. Well, they got so friendly with me they'd come in at eleven o'clock at night, and I'd say, "Why don't you give that man his papers? You're not helping him anymore. What the heck if he cashed a check that wasn't his, why hold that against him? Why don't you just forget about it and give him the papers for his children's sake? They're Americans." And toward the last, I don't think we lost a case. And they'd come in here and Esther would sit there with them, and write their name, and most of them, like I said, X, and we'd, you know...

- R: Would this be in the thirties or in the forties?
- L: Oh, the late thirties. See, the pension came in in '36, it was in the thirties and in the forties. Even during the War.
- R: What does the pension have to do with it?
- L: Well, a lot of them old people couldn't get on the pension, you see, if you wasn't a citizen. See. And when you became a citizen, you were eligible for pension, in them days.
- EL: After they'd lived here for so long.
- L: They had to live here, at that time, I think it was twenty years, wasn't it? Now it's only five, I think. It's changed now, everything. And now you just go down to Denver. I eyewitnessed for one here, not too many years ago, for a Spanish man down in Denver, I had to go to the Immigration Office, you know. U.S. in the Federal Building, and he just passed me through, and I told him about it was Mr. Pulliam's second wife, you know, she was a friend that he used to work for, and I went down, with us three, and just, well, he got his papers right there. He said, "Now you come back next week, and be sworn in." You know, by the judge. Well, we used to have to go up there two or three times, you know, and ask them questions, and they'd ask the witnesses, but you don't do that no more.
- EL: You know, we used to have these old souls, you know, you'd have to learn to write your name. And you was gonna take out your citizen papers. And they couldn't write their name. So they'd come down, and I'd say, "Okay, now. I'm gonna help you. Now here's five sheets of paper. Now here, you go home, and you write your name exactly like I've written it on the top of this here paper." So this one little gal, she come back, and oh, mercy, it didn't even look like what I had written there. I said "No, I'm not gonna accept this. You're gonna have to do this all over." So I said, "Now, here's five more sheets of paper. Now, you take this home, and you do it over. And you can't get an A doing it like this." So, here she come. She had it written just so nice, and she really did, she had learned to write her name, and then she got her pension.
- L: I'll tell you a story about one. I'll tell you a little, and this is true. One of them Germans went to get her papers, you know, and it just seemed like she never could remember the governor's name. So when...
- EL: I witnessed for that lady.

- L: Anyway, don't forget now, you remember this, this governor's name, now, his name is Carr. And you say "automobile."
- EL: No, remember automobile, think of automobile, and that'll remind you of a Carr.
- R: Yes, association.
- EL: Yeah, association.
- L: And by golly, went up there, he says, "Mrs So-and-So, did you learn the governor's name?" "Automobile." "That's close enough."
- EL: He says, "I'll pass you on it."
- R: (Laughing) That's marvelous.
- EL: I was her witness.
- L: And you wonder why we could write a book. See. But...
- R: But were most of these elderly people?
- L: Oh, yes. They were in their sixties. They were in this country 30, 40 years some of them, even maybe more. But, you know, I had a feller that, I'm not gonna mention his name, but I used to hear this, and I just show you how religion works in some of them old people. And they said, "All your kids are born here and all of that," and he said, "I hear you're not a citizen." He said, "There's only one place you become a citizen. That's in heaven. You don't join any worldly things." See. And see his attitude? And he had a good point, but on the other hand again, you couldn't do that, you know. But whether he finally became, I think he was, you know there was talk like that. He was kind of an Evangelist, see. But I don't know, you don't see that anymore now. I think that people that are living in our German-Russians, I don't think there's not anymore. They can [inaudible] these immigrants, they came here after World War I and World War II, see, they had to become a citizen, they'd have to swear to our Constitution, you know. Our big problem with citizen was none of them could talk. They knew, but they couldn't answer the questions. I'd say, "What's our President's name?" See, but, you know, they knew, but they didn't know his name. "How many branches of government do we have?" "What do you mean, branches? I don't know what you mean? What are branches?" "Well, there's judicial, there's executive, you know," and "Well, what do you mean," and legislature, well, you know how the branches are. And they, "All right, do you know the Amendments? How many amendments we got?" Well, we got twenty-some now, but in them days, the first, sixteen or seventeen, anyway, that was the thing that confused them. "What's the difference between a county, city government, county government, state government,"

and national. "Where is our national? Where is our headquarters? Where is the national?" And a lot of them would say, "Denver." See.

R: I mean, it's perfectly understandable.

L: Yeah, but that thing, well, you were making out that exam, he was a little bit, and there was one time, he finally committed suicide. He was a German, from Germany, you know.

R: From Germany rather than Russia?

L: Yeah. Is this thing on?

R: Yeah, but we're almost through. You've got about a minute. You don't need to mention names.

L: No, and anyway, I heard that he used to, you know, he could ask them in German, see, and they would kind of, you know, kind of catch on a little more, you see. But then again, there was some judge, our Judge Kaufman here, he wasn't too much in favor, you know. He says, "Learn the American." He'd say, "better luck and try it next time again." He wanted it a little more American.

EL: They were so eager to learn, though.

L: Oh, they wanted to.

EL: They'd just stand there and say, I'd sit up with some of them, and we'd go over and over and over and pretty soon I'd be nodding, and I'd be going to sleep, and they're still drilling, you know.

L: Well, Esther, I think we have to blame the children on it.

EL: Yeah.

L: I think, I think and then the witnesses. I know of a case real close where the witness, said, "Oh, you're so and so old, what in the world, forget about it, why go through all that trouble," see. But a lot of them said they were dedicated, they wanted to be buried where they were citizens. See. And they were determined, like Esther says. They wanted to learn. They were eager to learn and they wanted to be citizens. Then when the pension came in and all of that, I was even on, Governor Johnson and Secretary of State Saunders that time, I knew them all. When they started the unity League, I remember there was Townsend Plan, that's how we got that old-age pension started in this state. See, it really originated from California, you know. Townsend. But not we got social security and everything else. But in them days, see, it was, we either went on welfare direct from the city or the county or the state. See, the federal government had only direct.

- EL: But one thing I want to say about our German people. They didn't want anything for nothing, and they wanted to earn it. Whatever it was, whether it was going out and hoeing your beans or something. They wanted to earn whatever they got. They worked and didn't want anything for nothing.
- L: We was talking about the store. During the Depression, they'd come in and they didn't say, "Give me a sandwich," and "I'm hungry," or so and so, they'd say, "Mister, what can I do for you. I'm so hungry. What can I do for you." See. And they'd be going from the east coast, you know, like the old covered wagon, remember that wagon train in the thirties when they went, what did they call that...
- R: The Okies?
- L: Yeah, went to California from the East, and I was railroading in the late thirties, the late twenties, and I was down at Oxford, the transients used to be hanging full of fellers, you know. They had signs on their back. "I'm a teacher, I want relief." "I'm an electrical worker, Western Electric.: I was in Chicago, so were you, when they laid off several thousand people at one time, you know, during the Depression. And they'd come out and they'd heard about the West. See, that's how California grew so fast. And they'd have signs on them. And then they'd come over to the roundhouse and they'd be hungry. Well, the boss, you know, used to say, "Gus, don't hang around too close to them fellows. They could do a lot of damage." And it wasn't in my, I just couldn't. I used to open my dinner pail and I'd say, "Here boys. Go on up. Do what you can." I've often wondered some of them fellows, if they still remember my name. You know. But it was that way. And I went through Nebraska and southern Nebraska and southern Colorado, down to Oklahoma and all, and we, we used to go and take a few trips, and I can see where the cattle were hanging over the fence, you know, with their head over the fence, you know, dead, we'd open them up, you know, and they'd be full of sand, you know, their stomachs. The wind, the dust, see, and then I, even that, with all of that, I was in a tornado in 1928 and blew our home and everything away in McCook, and we built another one. All of that was fine and we started a store and we been in several floods and the Depression, but this summer that flood was the worst I ve seen. Boy, when you see that water coming up ten, fifteen, feet high at you, and see cars going down the river, but God blessed us again. Our cabin is still sitting there. The Lord must have said, "Build on rock. Build on sand and it'll wash away." I built mine on the mountain next to the rock. It's still there.
- R: Good for you. Good for you.

- L: So we can just go on and on, here, you know.
- R: Well, let me plug just a couple of holes. You were railroading in the twenties. I guess.
- L: I railroaded from '20, in the fall of '21 until 1932.
- R: What was the railroad?
- L: The Burlington. But I served four years apprentice.
- R: And you were across Colorado or Nebraska? You lived in McCook at the time?
- L: McCook, the McCook Division, which included Denver. Don't worry about us, we don't have any particular time. That was included in McCook Division, see, McCook is Denver Division, Burlington. Now it's Great Northern, see. And then a lot of our people, you know, they were railroad people. I had a couple of cousins, you know, they were roadmasters and they were section foremans, and this Pete Trock's brother was a roadmaster in Red Cloud. They were old-timers, too. And, oh, Lincoln was full of railroaders, and we had some in [inaudible]. But you see, the Burlington was from Chiacgo out, you see, and the Union Pacific was from Omaha to the West Coast, see. And a lot of our German-Russian people helped to lay the railroad from Lincoln to Denver. In the early days.
- R: Uh-huh. On the Burlington Railroad.
- L: And a lot of them helped from Grand Island to Omaha, from Grand Island to Cheyenne.
- R: And Union Pacific, too.
- L: And then the Mormons, you know, up in Utah, too, from Wyoming to Utah and then on over. See, Burlington , the Union Pacific Railroad only went to Oakland. See, the Union Pacific Railroad didn't cross the bay.
- R: That's right. Didn't cross the bay.
- L: They had a ferry, you know. See. I know how I wrote them.
- R: And then one other thing: when you were witnessing and the judges, did you have to go to Fort Collins as the County Seat?
- L: Yeah, always at that time was the County Court, which was the county seat in Collins. Had to go up there whenever the court met. I think it met, what is it, meets two times a year, no two times, and then there were three. But now, you see, it's in the federal court, you know, Denver. It's gonna be up in there. If you want to make applications, you can make an application here, but then you're examined in U.S. Custom Building down in Denver, see.

R: Um-hmm, the big one down there.

L: And then you're, I don't know what judge, you see, there's several judges, you know, District Judge, you know, I mean, federal judges. See, even as long as I was living here, my neighbor, Mr. Jilson, Judge Jilson was my neighbor for many years, see. His son is a lawyer here, too. He was a lawyer, too.

R: This tape was made by Kenneth Rock with Gus Lebsack at his home in Loveland on Monday, April the 25th, 1977. (END of TAPE)